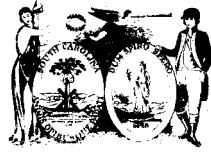


**SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -**

SOYBEAN BOARD

For the Year Ended June 30, 2002

State of South Carolina



Office of the State Auditor

1401 MAIN STREET, SUITE 1200
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29201

THOMAS L. WAGNER, JR., CPA
STATE AUDITOR

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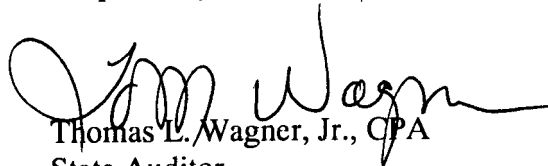
November 6, 2002

The Honorable Jim Hodges, Governor
and
Members of the South Carolina Soybean Board
Columbia, South Carolina

This report on the audit of the financial statements of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture – Soybean Board for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2002, was issued by Wilkes & Company, Certified Public Accountants, under contract with the South Carolina Office of the State Auditor.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please let us know.

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas L. Wagner, Jr., CPA
State Auditor

TLWjr/trb

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
SOYBEAN BOARD

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Mr. Thomas L. Wagner, Jr., CPA
State Auditor
South Carolina Office of the State Auditor
Columbia, South Carolina

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board special revenue fund as of June 30, 2002, and the related statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Board's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the financial statements of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board special revenue fund are intended to present the financial position and results of operations of only that portion of the funds of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture attributable to the transactions of the Soybean Board special revenue fund and do not include any other amounts or funds of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture or any other department or component unit of the State of South Carolina, and are not intended to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to in the first paragraph present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board special revenue fund as of June 30, 2002, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Wilkes & Company

Columbia, South Carolina
October 1, 2002

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
SOYBEAN BOARD

BALANCE SHEET

June 30, 2002

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 134,437
Accounts receivable	8,309
Prepaid assessment	<u>5,614</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 148,360</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

Liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$ 7,032
Payables to related parties	2,776
Accrued payroll	4,094
Accrued compensated absences – current portion	<u>1,260</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>15,162</u>
Fund Equity:	
Fund Balance (unreserved)	<u>133,198</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	<u>\$ 148,360</u>

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES ARE
AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
SOYBEAN BOARD

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE**

For the Year Ended June 30, 2002

Revenues:	
Assessments	\$ 220,411
Total Assessment Revenues	220,411
Less:	
Assessments remitted to other states	(57,317)
Assessments remitted to United Soybean Board	<u>(40,710)</u>
Net Assessment Revenues	<u>122,384</u>
Expenditures:	
Personal services and benefits	44,481
Promotion	22,273
Research	30,000
Operating expenses	5,803
Board member reimbursements	2,839
Travel	<u>2,988</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>108,384</u>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	14,000
Fund Balance - July 1, 2001	<u>119,198</u>
Fund Balance - June 30, 2002	<u>\$ 133,198</u>

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES ARE
AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
SOYBEAN BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2002

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Entity Description

The South Carolina Soybean Board was established as a commodity board under Section 46-17-190 of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1962 and is included as part of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture is considered part of State of South Carolina's primary government and is included in the State of South Carolina's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as such. This is based on guidance provided by GASB Statement 14, *The Financial Reporting Entity*. The fund of the South Carolina Soybean Board is included in the financial statements of the Department of Agriculture. The Board was established for education, promotion and research to strengthen the soybean industry's position in the marketplace.

The South Carolina Soybean Board, whose members are elected by the local producers, is the governing body of the South Carolina Soybean board.

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture administers the South Carolina Soybean Board. The Board operates as a special revenue fund of the Department of Agriculture. The accompanying financial statements present the financial position and results of operations solely of the South Carolina Soybean Board special revenue fund and do not include any other funds of the State of South Carolina.

Basis of Presentation and Accounting

The financial statements were prepared using the fund accounting principles per the Government Accounting Standards Board *Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards*. The accounts of the South Carolina Soybean Board are a special revenue fund of the Department of Agriculture. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in this individual fund based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. All accounts of the South Carolina Soybean Board are reported in the special revenue funds of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting also relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The South Carolina Soybean Board is a special revenue fund. Special revenue funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than special assessments, expendable trust, or major capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
SOYBEAN BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2002

(Continued)

All special revenue funds of governmental units are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Their revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available as net current assets.

Expenditures are recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting generally when the related fund liability is incurred. Expenditures recognition is limited to exclude amounts represented by noncurrent liabilities. Since they do not affect net current assets, such long term amounts are not recognized as expenditures in special revenue funds. These noncurrent liabilities are reported by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture in its statement of activities.

Budgetary Controls

The following is a description of the budgetary process of the South Carolina Soybean Board:

Several months prior to the start of the fiscal year, a budget proposal for revenue and expenditures is developed by the executive director of the South Carolina Soybean Board. The proposal is developed through evaluation of historical financial data and on knowledge of future events. The proposal is presented to the Board for both discussion and review.

Fixed Assets

Purchases of fixed assets are recorded as expenditures in the year of purchase. The Board had no fixed asset purchases during the year.

Compensated Absences

Generally all permanent full-time State employees and certain part-time employees scheduled to work at least one-half of the agency's workweek are entitled to accrue and carry forward at calendar year-end a maximum of 180 days sick leave and 45 days annual vacation leave. Upon termination of State employment, employees are entitled to be paid for accumulated unused annual vacation leave up to the maximum of 45 days, but are not entitled to any payment for unused sick leave. The Department calculates the compensated absences liability based on recorded balances of unused leave for which the Department expects to compensate employees through paid time off or cash payments. The leave liability, inventoried at fiscal year-end current salary costs and the cost of the salary-related benefit payments contains a current liability of \$1,260 and noncurrent liability of \$1,155. The current liability of \$1,260 is recorded in these financial statements. The noncurrent liability of \$1,155 is not recorded since it would not be payable from current resources.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
SOYBEAN BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2002

(Continued)

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenditures and affect disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE 2 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

All deposits of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board are under the control of the State Treasurer who, by law, has sole authority for investing State Funds.

State law requires full collateralization of all State Treasurer bank balances. The State Treasurer must correct any deficiencies in collateral within seven days. At June 30, 2002, all State Treasurer bank balances were fully insured or collateralized with securities held by the State or by its agents in the State's name.

With respect to investments in the State's internal cash management pool, all of the State Treasurer's investments are insured or registered or are investments for which the securities are held by the State or its agent in the State's name. Information pertaining to the reported amounts, fair values, and credit risk of the State Treasurer's investments is disclosed in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the State of South Carolina.

NOTE 3 - PENSION PLAN AND OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Retirement Division of the State Budget and Control Board maintains four independent defined benefit plans and issues its own publicly available Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) which includes financial statements and required supplementary information. A copy of the separately issued CAFR may be obtained by writing to the Retirement Division, 202 Arbor Lake Drive, Columbia, South Carolina, 29223. Furthermore, the Division and the four pension plans are included in the CAFR of the State of South Carolina.

The one full time employee of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board is covered by a pension plan through the South Carolina Retirement System (SCRS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the Retirement Division, a public employee retirement system. Generally all State employees are required to participate in and contribute to the SCRS as a condition of employment unless exempted by law as provided in Section

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
SOYBEAN BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2002

(Continued)

9-1-480 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. This plan provides retirement annuity benefits as well as disability, cost of living adjustment, death, and group-life insurance benefits to eligible employees and retirees.

Under SCRS, employees are eligible for a full service retirement annuity upon reaching age 65 or completion of 28 years credited service regardless of age. The benefit formula for full benefits effective since July 1, 1989, for the SCRS is 1.82 percent of an employee's average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of credited service. Early retirement options with reduced benefits are available as early as age 55. Employees are vested for a deferred annuity after five years service and qualify for a survivor's benefit upon completion of 5 years credited service. Disability annuity benefits are payable to employees totally and permanently disabled provided they have a minimum of five years credited service (this requirement does not apply if the disability is the result of a job related injury). A group-life insurance benefit equal to an employee's annual rate of compensation is payable upon the death of an active employee with a minimum of one year of credited service.

Effective January 1, 2001, Section 9-1-2210 of the South Carolina Code of Laws allows employees eligible for service retirement to participate in the Teacher and Employee Retention Incentive (TERI) Program. TERI participants may retire and begin accumulating retirement benefits on a deferred basis without terminating employment for up to five years. Upon termination of employment or at the end of the TERI period, whichever is earlier, participants will begin receiving monthly service retirement benefits which will include any cost of living adjustments granted during the TERI period. Because participants are considered retired during the TERI period, they do not make SCRS contributions, do not earn service credit, and are ineligible to receive group life insurance benefits or disability retirement benefits.

Since July 1, 1988, employees participating in the SCRS have been required to contribute 6.0 percent of all compensation. Effective July 1, 2001, the employer contribution rate became 10.4 percent which included a 2.85 percent surcharge to fund retiree health and dental insurance coverage. The Board's actual contributions to the SCRS for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2002, were \$2,365 and equaled the required contributions of 7.55 percent (excluding the surcharge) for the year. Employer contributions for fiscal year 2001 were \$1,807 and for fiscal year 2000 were \$2,410. Also, the Board paid employer group-life insurance contributions of \$47 in the current fiscal year at the rate of .15 percent of compensation.

Article X, Section 16, of the South Carolina Constitution requires that all State operated retirement systems be funded on a sound actuarial basis. Title 9 of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended, prescribes requirements relating to membership, benefits, and employee/employer contributions for each pension plan. Employee and employer contribution rates to SCRS are actuarially determined.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
SOYBEAN BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2002

(Continued)

The surcharges to fund retiree health and dental insurance are not part of the actuarially established rates. Annual benefits, payable monthly for life, are based on length of service and on average final compensation (an annualized average of the employee's highest 12 consecutive quarters of compensation).

The System does not make separate measurements of assets and pension liabilities for individual employers. Under Title 9 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, the Board's liability under the plan is limited to the amounts of contributions (stated as a percentage of covered payroll) established by the State Budget and Control Board. Therefore, the Board's liability under the pension plan is limited to the contribution requirements for the applicable year from amounts appropriated therefor in the South Carolina Appropriation Act and amounts from other applicable revenue sources. Accordingly, the Board recognizes no contingent liability for unfunded costs associated with participation in the plan.

At retirement, employees participating in the SCRS receive additional service credit (at a rate of 20 days equals one month of service) for up to 90 days for accumulated unused sick leave.

Post-Employment and Other Employee Benefits

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and the annual Appropriation Act, the State of South Carolina provides certain health care, dental, and life insurance benefits to certain active and retired State employees and certain surviving dependents of retirees. All permanent full-time employees of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board are eligible to receive these benefits. The State provides post employment health and dental benefits to employees who retire from State service or who terminated with at least 20 years of State service who meet one or more of the eligibility requirements, such as age, length of service, and hire date. Generally those who retire must have at least 10 years of retirement service credit to qualify for these State-funded benefits. Benefits are effective at date of retirement when the employee is eligible for retirement benefits. These benefits are provided through the Board's applicable revenue sources for active employees and the State Budget and Control Board for all participating State retirees except the portion funded through the pension surcharge and provided from other applicable revenue sources of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board for its active employees who are not funded by State General Fund appropriations. The State finances health and dental plan benefits on a pay-as-you-go basis. Currently, approximately 21,000 State retirees meet these eligibility requirements.

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board recorded employer contribution expenses for these insurance benefits for active employees in the amount of \$5,515 for the year ended June 30, 2002. As discussed above, the

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
SOYBEAN BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2002

(Continued)

Board paid \$893 applicable to the surcharge included with the employer contributions for retirement benefits. These amounts were remitted to the South Carolina Retirement Systems for distribution to the Division of Insurance Services for retiree health and dental insurance benefits.

Information regarding the cost of insurance benefits applicable to the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board retirees is not available. By State law, the Board has no liability for retirement benefits. Accordingly, the cost of providing these benefits for retirees is not included in the accompanying financial statements.

In addition, the State General Assembly periodically directs the Retirement Systems to pay supplemental (cost of living) increases to retirees. Such increases are primarily funded from system's earnings; however, a portion of the required amount is appropriated from the State General Fund annually for the SCRS benefits.

NOTE 4 - DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLANS

Several optional deferred compensation plans are available to State employees and employers of its political subdivisions. The employee of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board does participate. The multiple-employer plans, created under Internal Revenue Code sections 457, 401(k), and 403(b) are administered by third parties and are not included in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the State of South Carolina. Compensation deferred under the plans is placed in trust for the contributing employee. Employees may withdraw the current value of their contributions when they terminate State employment. Employees may also withdraw the current value of their contributions prior to termination if they meet requirements specified by the applicable plan. The State has no liability for losses under the plans.

NOTE 5 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Soybean Board has significant transactions with the South Carolina Department of Agriculture and various other state agencies.

Services received at no cost from State agencies include certain accounting records and payroll and disbursement processing from the Comptroller General; check preparation, banking functions from the State Treasurer; and legal services from the Attorney General.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
SOYBEAN BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2002

(Continued)

The Department of Agriculture provides to the Board at no cost, office space, personnel and payroll services, record keeping, disbursement processing, insurance coverage and other centralized functions. The amount of 2002 expenditures applicable to these services is not readily determinable.

Other services received at no cost from the various divisions of the State Budget and Control Board include retirement plan administration, insurance plans administration, personnel management, procurement services, property management and record keeping; and other centralized functions.

The Board also had financial transactions with various State agencies during the fiscal year. Significant payments were made to divisions of the State Budget and Control Board for office supplies, telephone, interagency mail, and data processing services. The amounts of 2002 expenditures applicable to related party transactions are not readily available.

The South Carolina Soybean Board paid \$30,000 to Clemson University, a state supported institution, for soybean research during the year.

The Board provided no services free of charge to the State agencies during the fiscal year.

Effective September 1991 the South Carolina Soybean Board, as a Qualified State Soybean Board, started remitting a portion of its assessment proceeds to the United Soybean Board. The authority for the formation of the United Soybean Board was the Soybean Promotion Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990 (the "Act"), approved on November 28, 1990, by the United State Congress: The "Act" provides for the establishment of a coordinated program of promotion, research and consumer information designed to strengthen the soybean industry's position in the marketplace, as well as to maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets and uses for soybeans and soybean products. As provided in the Act, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (the "Secretary") issued the Soybean Promotion and Research Order, effective November 28, 1990, which provides the terms and conditions for the Act's administration. The United Soybean Board (the "Board"), which was created and approved by the Secretary to administer the Act, consisted of various members who are representatives of the soybean industry in the United States.

The program is financed exclusively by an assessment of .05% of the net market price of the soybeans sold by the producer. The assessments are remitted to the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board. The United Soybean Board receives approximately one-half of assessment monies and the South Carolina Department of Agriculture retains the remainder.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
SOYBEAN BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2002

(Continued)

During this fiscal year, the South Carolina Soybean Board received credits from the United Soybean Board to be used against the monthly 50% remittances for assessments. This credit provision has been enacted to lessen the impact of unfavorable market conditions upon soybean assessments. These credits are calculated by the United Soybean Board and are based on a comparison of the five year average of revenues to the most current year's revenue. As a result of credits given for the calendar years 1999, 2000, and 2001, the South Carolina Soybean Board did not pay remittances to the United Soybean Board for several months during the year. The Board used \$7,214 of 1999 credits, \$22,406 of 2000 credits, and \$16,415 of 2001 credits during the year. The Board has used all of the credits for 1999 and 2000. There is \$5,614 of 2001 credits remaining at June 30, 2002. This amount is recorded in these financial statements as prepaid expenses.

The Soybean Board also has related party transactions with the South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association. The Executive Director of the South Carolina Soybean Board is also the Executive Director of the South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association. There are some common board members between the two organizations also.

During this fiscal year, the South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association performed several promotional and educational projects related to producer communication and industry information for the South Carolina Soybean Board. The South Carolina Soybean Board reimbursed \$22,273 in actual costs incurred by the South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association for these projects. Included in accounts payable at June 30, 2002, is \$2,776 for these projects.

NOTE 6 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board is exposed to various risks of loss and maintains State or commercial insurance coverage for certain risks. Management believes such coverage is sufficient to preclude any significant uninsured losses to the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board. The South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board has not had any claims in the past three years. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage from coverage in the prior year. The South Carolina Department of Agriculture pays insurance premiums to certain State agencies and commercial insurers to cover risks that may occur in normal operations. The insurers promise to pay to or on behalf of the insured for covered premium losses sustained during the policy period in accord with the insurance policy and benefit program limits. Several State funds accumulate assets and the State itself assumes substantially all risks for the following:

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE -
SOYBEAN BOARD

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2002

(Continued)

1. Claims of covered employees for health and dental insurance benefits (Office of Insurance Services); and
2. Claims of covered public employees for long-term disability and group-life insurance benefits (Office of Insurance Services).
3. Claims of covered public employees for workers' compensation insurance benefits (State Accident Fund).
4. Claims of covered public employees for unemployment compensation insurance benefits (Employment Security Commission).

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture and other entities pay premiums to the State's Insurance Reserve Fund (IRF) which issues policies, accumulates assets to cover the risks of loss and pays claims incurred for covered losses related to the following Fund assets, activities, and/or events.

1. Personal property and equipment - Eighty percent of each loss is covered by the IRF. Losses are subject to a \$250 deductible.
2. Data processing equipment - Coverage is up to \$100,000 per loss with a \$250 deductible.
3. Torts

The IRF is a self insurer and purchases reinsurance to obtain certain services and specialized coverage and to limit losses. The IRF's rates are determined actuarially.

State agencies are the primary participants in the State's Health and Disability Insurance Fund and in the IRF.

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture purchases insurance coverage for employee fidelity bond insurance coverage arising from theft or misappropriations. The policy has a \$1,000 deductible with a coverage limit of \$25,000.

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board has not recorded any estimated losses or expenditures related to the deductible or policy limits because there is no evidence of asset impairment or other information to indicate a loss should be recorded.

All payments for insurance are made by the Department and the Soybean Board does not reimburse any of these expenses.

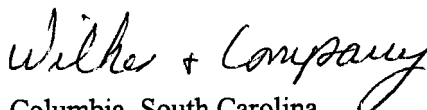
COMPLIANCE LETTER

Mr. Thomas L. Wagner, Jr., CPA
State Auditor
South Carolina Office of the State Auditor
Columbia, South Carolina

We have audited the balance sheet of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board special revenue fund for the year ended June 30, 2002, and the related statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for the year then ended. Our audit was made in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.

In connection with our audit, since the South Carolina Soybean Board does not hold invested funds nor does it invest any funds, nothing came to our attention to indicate that the South Carolina Soybean Board failed to comply with the terms, insofar as they relate to accounting matters of the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act of 1990 and the Soybean Promotion and Research Order (the "Order") relative to investment of funds collected by a State Board and the provisions of Section 1220.211(j). However our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance in the use and investment of funds.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the directors and management of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board, the United Soybean Board and the United States Department of Agriculture and should not be used for any other purpose.


Columbia, South Carolina
October 1, 2002

WILKES & COMPANY

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

TIMOTHY C. WILKES, CPA
W.M. McDOWELL, JR., CPA
BEN J. PEARMAN, CPA
CHERYL H. THIGPEN, CPA

COMPLIANCE LETTER

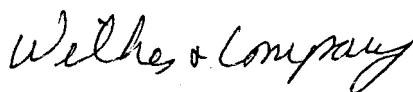
Mr. Thomas L. Wagner, Jr., CPA
State Auditor
South Carolina Office of the State Auditor
Columbia, South Carolina

We have audited the balance sheet of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board special revenue fund for the year ended June 30, 2002, and the related statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance for the year then ended, and have issued our report dated October 1, 2002. Our audit was made in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements.

Compliance with the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act of (the "Act") 1990 and the Soybean Promotion and Research Order (the "Order") relative to the use of funds collected by the State Board and with the terms described in Section 1220.228(a) of the Order relative to prohibited uses of funds collected by the State Board, is the responsibility of the Board's management. As part of our audit, we assessed the risk that noncompliance with the Act and the Order as explained above, could cause the financial statements to be materially misstated. We concluded that the risk of such material misstatement was sufficiently low that it was not necessary to perform tests of the Board's compliance with the Act and the Order.

However, in connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board has not complied, in all material respects, with the Act and the Order referred to in the preceding paragraph.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the directors and management of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soybean Board, the United Soybean Board, and the United States Department of Agriculture; and should not be used for any other purpose.



Columbia, South Carolina
October 1, 2002